

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 342

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0056

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES FOR TRANSIT ROUTE
IMPROVEMENTS

REFS: A. BONN 470

B. USBERLIN 33

1. SUMMARY: SENAT HAS PROVIDED ALLIES WITH SIX
ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES FOR TRANSIT ROUTE IMPROVEMENTS
TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH GDR, WITH RECONSTRUCTION OF BERLIN-
HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN FAR DOWN ON LIST. END SUMMARY.

2. SENAT CHANCELLERY HEAD HERZ JANUARY 10
PROVIDED ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS WITH SIX PRIORITIES
IN ADDITION TO THOSE REPORTED REF B:

PRIORITY 6: RECONSTRUCTION AND DOUBLE-TRACKING
OF RAIL LINE FROM BERLIN TO HANNOVER VIA STAAKEN-
STENDAL-OEBELSFELDE.

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PRIORITY 7: RECONSTRUCTION OF BERLIN RING AUTOBAHN BETWEEN LEIPZIG AND DREWITZ TURNOFFS TO PROVIDE SIX LANES.

PRIORITY 8: DOUBLE-TRACKING OF BERLIN-HAMBURG RAIL LINE.

PRIORITY 9: RECONSTRUCTION OF BERLIN-HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN (LEIPZIG TURNOFF TO MARIENBORN). HERZ REPEATED HIS ASSERTION THAT DROPPING THIS PROJECT FROM FIRST TO NINTH PRIORITY WAS DUE TO CURRENT COMMITMENTS OF WEST GERMAN CONSTRUCTION FIRMS TO OTHER PROJECTS. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS EASIER TO CONSTRUCT NEW AUTOBAHN THAN TO RECONSTRUCT AN EXISTING ONE WHILE WORKING AROUND HEAVY FLOW OF TRAFFIC. ASKED ABOUT APPLICATION OF ROAD-USE FEES TO THIS PROJECT, HERZ SAID THAT GDR HAD ALREADY USED MONEY FROM SUCH FEES TO IMPROVE AUTOBAHN TO MUNICH AND HIGH-WAY TO HAMBURG.

PRIORITY 10: MODERNIZATION OF BERLIN-HAMBURG HIGHWAY (BETWEEN STAAKEN AND LAUENBURG). HERZ WONDERED WHETHER THIS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN LIST AT ALL, INASMUCH AS NEED MIGHT BE OBIATED BY CONSTRUCTION OF BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN.

PRIORITY 11: COMPLETE REMAINING 135 KILOMETERS OF SECOND SET OF TRACKS ON BERLIN-LUDWIGSTADT RAIL LINE (ROUTE TO MUNICH.)

3. HERZ SAID THAT ESTIMATED COST FOR ALL TEN PROJECTS (THERE ARE ELEVEN PRIORITIES, BUT BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN IS LISTED TWICE--REF B) WAS 2.6 BILLION MARKS. HE NOTED THAT "IN THEORY," (PRESUMABLY ON BASIS OF USE) WEST GERMANS SHOULD ONLY PAY 800 MILLION MARKS, LEAVING EAST GERMANS TO PAY REMAINING 1.8 BILLION. ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE NEGOTIATED. (IT WAS ASSUMED BY MANY IN BERLIN THAT FRG WILL END UP PAYING LION'S SHARE.) ALTHOUGH SENAT HAD ALREADY APPROVED PRIORITY LISTING, SCHUETZ WOULD PARTICIPATE IN MEETING JANUARY 15 WITH RESPONSIBLE CONFIDENTIAL

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FRG MINISTERS (NOT ENTIRE CABINET). HERZ ADDED THAT SENAT ASSUMED PRIORITIES AS NOW ARRANGED WOULD BE APPROVED AND THAT CABINET WOULD RUBBER-STAMP LIST AT MEETING AROUND JANUARY 20. THIS WOULD ENABLE FRG REP GAUS TO BEGIN TALKS WITH GDR DEPUTY FONMIN NIER PRIOR TO END OF JANUARY. ACCORDING TO HERZ, INITIAL GAUS-NIER TALKS WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH SUCH MODALITIES AS LEVEL AND TYPE OF NEGOTIATIONS (POLITICAL, TECHNICAL

OR MIXED).

4. IN REGARD TO NEGOTIATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR REOPENING OF TELTWO CANAL (REF A), FRENCH MISSION HERE HAS INDICATED NON-FLEXIBILITY HINTED AT BY BOISSIEU; FRENCH POLAD HAS MAINTAINED IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR REASONS ADVANCED BY BOISSIEU THAT FRG NEGOTIATE. HERZ IN ARGUING FOR SENAT'S NEGOTIATING HAS NOW THROWN IN ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY, WHICH STRIKES US AS LIKELY TO BE NON-STARTER FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW, INCLUDING PROBLEMS OF GRANTING ALLIED AUTHORIZATION: THAT FRG WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATION BUT WOULD DESIGNATE SENAT OFFICIALS AS NEGOTIATING AGENTS. HERZ HAS CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT WHOEVER NEGOTIATES, IT IS INTENDED THAT FRG BEAR THE COST.SELIGMANN

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